MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 APRIL 1982

Iran

Soviet Bombing -- On 5 April Soviet planes bombed the town of Hormak, near the Afghan border, hitting a police station and wounding several policemen, according to Afghan sources in Tehran cited by AFP. Soviet planes bombed the nearby Robat region of Afghanistan, killing over 100, and helicopters mined the area, the sources added. An official Iranian source confirmed the Hormak incident but refused further comment, according to AFP. Monitored Iranian media have not mentioned the bombing.

Pipeline Explosion -- An Iranian-Soviet gas pipeline was blown up south of Rasht on 4 April, AFP reported citing KEYHAN.

Khamene'i-USSR Ambassador Meeting -- "We hope that on your return from Iran you will strive to see that your government emulates the peaceful behavior of our government," President 'Ali Khamene'i told the departing Soviet ambassador at a farewell meeting reported by Tehran radio.

Alleged Executions -- Over 1,000 supporters of the Mojahedin-e Kahlq and other antiregime groups have been secretly executed during the past 2 months, the clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio claimed.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi Officer Interview -- Iran's losses in last month's Shush-Dezful battles included 23,643 dead, 347 tanks, 150 armored troop carriers, 311 other vehicles, 6 planes and 8 helicopters, an Iraqi major general claimed in a Baghdad television interview reported by INA. The Iranians were foiled in their main objective of crossing the Iraqi border, the officer added.

Muslim Deportees -- A new group of Iraqi Muslim deportees whose numbers may reach 1,000 has begun arriving in Iran, Tehran radio reported.

Egyptian Aid -- Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has apparently promised Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to send volunteers and other military aid after 25 April in return for a resumption of full diplomatic relations, according to Jerusalem radio. During Egypt's Cabinet meeting on 7 April, Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah expounded the details of the military situation in light of the recent Iranian attack, Cairo MENA reported citing the minister of information. Egypt stands on the side of Iraq in the war and considers any danger to the oil-rich region as threatening its own security and stability, Egypt's permanent UN representative 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid declared in a statement to Kuwait's AS-SIYASAH cited by KUNA.

Algerian Mediation Offer -- Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid has offered to mediate in the war and suggested that the 1975 Algiers agreement could serve as the point of departure, AFP reported.

Musavi Speech -- If mediating countries want peace in the region, they should exert pressure on the present Iraqi regime, but even if they fail to do so, Saddam Husayn's regime will collapse, Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi said in a speech to officers' academy graduates reported by Tehran radio. Iran will not take one step backward without compensation, condemnation of the aggressor and ousting of the last Iraqi soldier from its soil, Musavi added.

Nonaligned Meeting

Accusations, Mediation Efforts -- Iraq and Iran accused each other of aggression in speeches by their representatives at the Nonaligned Coordination Bureau meeting in Kuwait reported by Baghdad Voice of the Masses and Tehran radios.

At his meeting with the nonaligned countries' ministerial committee mediating in the war, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said Iran welcomes any mission, but stressed that the committee must observe Iran's three conditions for peace, IRNA reported. Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi met separately with the same committee and reiterated Iraq's stand on the dispute, according to Baghdad Voice of the Masses.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met separately in Kuwait with the Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers and with Islamic Conference Organization Secretary General Habib Chatti, in each case discussing the Iranian-Iraqi war and aspects of the Middle East problem, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported. Earlier, KUNA claimed that a PLO spokesman had denied the 'Arafat-Velayati meeting.

Jordanian Warning -- Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim told the nonaligned meeting that Jordan's warning to West Bank inhabitants to leave the village leagues has greatly bolstered the people's will to continue the uprising against the Israeli occupation, Amman radio reported.

Israel

Sharon Statement, Eytan Interview -- Emphasizing that increasing quantities of weapons and sabotage materiel have been reaching the Gaza Strip via Sinai, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon has expressed fears about ties Egypt has been developing with "terrorist" organizations, DAVAR reported citing private statements by Sharon within the defense establishment.

From Israel's viewpoint there is no difference between a handgrenade thrown in Gaza or a mortar shell fired at a border settlement, Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan declared in an interview with MA'ARIV. Noting that a terrorist organization admitted that it murdered the Israeli diplomat in Paris, Eytan maintained that the PLO is behind terrorist actions though it sometimes uses fictitious names to conceal its trail. So long as such terrorist activities occur, there is no cease-fire as far as Israel is concerned, he stated.

West Bank Situation -- A nun was hospitalized after being seriously wounded by a handgrenade thrown at a tourist group visiting Jacob's well in southeast Nabulus, Jerusalem radio reported. The thrower escaped toward the Balatah refugee camp upon which a curfew was then imposed, the radio added.

"Hooligans" beat up people at a college in Bethlehem and a club and cafe in Bayt Sahur. Local inhabitants accuse village league members of the attacks, but military sources attribute them to criminal elements, according to Jerusalem radio. In a cable to Sharon, the Mayor of Bayt Sahur demanded that village league members be disarmed, the radio added.

A military court found the mayor of 'Anabta guilty of violating military orders and possessing banned publications, the Jerusalem POST reported.

We call on all Palestinian corporate bodies, national personalities and religious leaders to concert their stand and announce their rejection of the civil administration, the Nabulus Municipal Council declared in a statement broadcast by Voice of Palestine.

Phosphates Field -- One of the world's richest phosphate fields has been discovered near Beersheba, according to Jerusalem radio. Experts believe that the newly found ore, whose discovery had been kept secret, has a high percentage of uranium, the radio added.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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["Summary" of the report of the Central Committee of the PDPA read by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and chairman of the Revolutionary Council, to the PDPA countrywide conference on 14 March; capitalized passages denote boldface type as published]

[Text] PROGRAMME OF ACTION AND URGENT TASKS OF THE CONSOLIDATION OF PARTY AND EXPANSION OF ITS TIES WITH THE PEOPLE.

In the time elapsed since the first congress of the PDPA, our party has traversed a long, twisted, prideful, curves and ups and downs [as published]. Under the leadership of the PDPA the glorious April Revolution came to victory which placed our beloved ancient and prideful country on the path of national and democratic growth.

After April 27, in a historically short span of time profound changes and transformations have taken place in the country and the growth of this process continues. An end has been put to the political, social and economic domination of big feudals and usurers and water and land reforms are being implemented to the advantage of broad masses of farmers and nomads. The state sector is being expanded and consolidated in industry and transport.

The party and the government consistently and steadfastly are working for the creation and consolidation of an atmosphere of legality, and respect to the rites and freedoms of the citizens of the country. All the necessary grounds are being provided for the free and unrestrained performance of the sacred religious rites by the believers. Now, more than ever before, our people have become convinced that our policy really aims at solving the economical, social and moral problems to their benefit. The result of our accomplished work in all spheres is marked with the stabilization of new relations of respect, confidence, cooperation and fraternity among all national and patriotic forces of Afghanistan in their noble and common activity for our dear country, the revolutionary Afghanistan.

Thus, this fact has been proved once more that the policy of the PDPA is the only correct policy which is the exponent of the basic interests of the needs and aspirations of our people.

The revolutionary turn from backwardness towards the all-round development in Afghanistan has aroused brutal wrath, anger and mad resistance of imperialism and reaction.

They have resorted to extensive interference in our internal affairs, and launched terror, manslaughter, murder of people and are providing fratricidal war and do not refrain from the use of any means to reestablish the sovereignty of exploiters and deprive our people from the right to prosperity and progress.

It is due to these very crimes and interferences of the enemies of the revolution in Afghanistan that the social and economic transformations taking place at a slower place than what was envisaged and serious difficulties arise in the work of industry, agriculture, energy and transport.

It is due to these crimes and interferences that the bloodshed still continues and our compatriots are suffering pain and agony.

The present situation and conditions demand from the PDPA, as being the ruling revolutionary party, clarity of objectives, decisiveness in action and a great amount of organizational work.

Due to this reason the approval of the programme of action, which should constitute the basis of greater and more closer unity of the party ranks and the mobilization of all forces for the execution of the tasks of the national and democratic revolution and the protection of the gains of revolution, is necessary.

The new constitutional document is necessary also because the main strategic task of the first programme (constitution) of the PDPA, i.e., the acquiring of the political power, has been accomplished. Now there are new tasks before the party. Therefore, the general objectives of the countrywide conference of our party is to chart and formulate these tasks and to determine the specific and concrete path for the onward march of our movement.

During the time between the convocation of the Second Plenum of the Central Committee of the PDPA and the adoption of the present constitution of the party, definite experience has been gained in connection with the inner party work and new forms and methods of work in the party organisations have come into being. The structure of the party organisations is being perfected and completed and the provincial committees and in big cities the precinct committees have been created. The rights and the duties of the party committees having different authorities have undergone changes. All this should find reflection in a fundamental document regulating the inner life of the party, i.e., in the constitution of the PDPA. Thus in our view it is useful that some changes and modifications should be brought about in the present constitution of the party.

THE ESSENCE OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE BASIC LINES OF ITS DEVELOPMENT.

While charting and formulating the program of action of the party and the practical policy arising from it we have placed a simple and clear target before ourselves, that is, to make our people prosperous and our country blossoming. This clear fact also forms the essence of the April Revolution and all the activities of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. But to achieve this lofty objective is not possible immediately and at once. The transition from the severe backwardness to the all-sided progress requires time and conscious and planned efforts of all the people under the leadership of their political vanguard, i.e., the ruling revolutionary party, our party, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. This is the historically inevitable stage of this process of the national-democratic revolution. Our revolution was a response to the historical discontent and increasing hatred of the broadest social forces, the toilers, intellectuals, progressive officers, soldiers, tribes, clans and nationalities against the reactionary and selfish policies of the anti-popular regimes. This is the national-democratic revolution which possesses an anti-imperialism character.

Our revolution places the following general democratic duties before itself:

To abolish all feudal and pre-feudal vestiges, limitation of the big land ownership and distribution of land to the landless peasants and small land owners and agricultural workers, to raise the level of the national economy, to raise the living standard of the people, to develop the cultures of nationalities, tribes and peoples of Afghanistan and a deep and consistent democratization of social and political life.

At the same time our revolution has national characteristic, because it reflects the national peculiarities, deep religious sentiments, historical and cultural traditions and the spiritual values of the people, residents of our single country, revolutionary Afghanistan. We treat these traditions and values with respect and protect painstakingly all that which was created by the previous generations and is good and progressive, and expand and perfect it.

I should point out once more that our revolution is the historical heir of the long struggles carried on by the Afghan patriots for the cause of better and prosperous future. These struggles were particularly strengthened and intensified by the impact of the basic changes which took place throughout the world about 65 years ago as a result of the Great October Socialist Revolution, and the subsequent changes in the balance of power in the world sphere to the benefit of peace and all-sided progress. In those very times new developments took place in our beloved country Afghanistan and grew rapidly and the forces of progress and independence were strengthened.

The subsequent continuation and development of these processes was carried on by the first movement for parliament, the progressive reforms of Amir Amanullah, the second movement for constitution, the movement of the seventh period of the National Council (parliament) and the movement of the people of Afghanistan for the democratic reforms, and against the despotic policies of the reactionary regimes.

The April Revolution triumphed not spontaneously, but was based on the revolutionary scientific theory and according to the general laws of social revolutions and the creative linking of these laws with the specific economic, historical, national and spiritual characteristics of beloved Afghanistan by the party.

What are these characteristics which constitute the specifics of revolutionary process in our country. First of all we should emphasise that the revolution was brought about in Afghanistan not only under conditions of extreme backwardness, but that it expands under conditions and circumstances that make it necessary to solve a wider range and circle of problems than certain other countries.

That is to say, in addition to general socio-economic and cultural problems it should solve national, religious, tribal and other problems, too. The solution of all these problems calls for a balanced and flexible approach on the part of the party and the revolutionary government.

Besides, the April Revolution began and is developing in peaceful as well as non-peaceful forms, i.e., in the form of armed struggles of the party and the people against the aggression of imperialism, Beijing hegemonism, reaction of the region and internal counterrevolution.

Also we must stress that the evolution of the national democratic revolution after its victory was not smooth and even. The revolution was confronted not only with the deviations and mistakes made in the initial stage, but it also faced the interference and organised aggression from outside.

As a result most of the mapped out tasks remained unfulfilled and the changes that had begun were not carried through to the end. Hence at the present stage of our revolution, the broad and extensive programs of actions should be implemented for strengthening of the gains of revolution, improvement of the material conditions of the toilers, continuation of and land and water reforms, improving of the conditions as regards the provision of primary essential goods, development of commerce, culture and education.

It is important and noteworthy that the April Revolution is developing in a country where the majority of its people is made up of the followers of the holy religion of Islam. Reaction within Afghanistan and outside its frontiers has been struggling and will struggle to create a feeling of resentment among the pious Muslims against revolution and the PDPA. Hence, the party will make new efforts to see to it that its lofty ideals and noble aims are properly communicated to the pious Muslims and first of all to the toilers properly and intensively.

Another special characteristic is that our revolution is developing in a country with a complex national and tribal composition. In the past, the despotic regimes and reaction were using these special traits to incite sedition and to sow discord and creation of animosity among the tribes and different nationalities to weaken the positions of all of them in order thus to prolong their shameful life and tyrannical rule over them. The party and the revolutionary government will devote its most serious attention to the correct and rational solution of these complex problems which have been inherited from the past.

The party based on the analysis of the realities of our society draws such a conclusion that the existing problems of the country and revolution can be solved stage by stage not at once and immediately. The development of revolution should be progressive, consistent and according to the plan. Every stage of its development can be started only after the execution of the tasks of its prior stage.

The party on the basis of this unflinching and unshakable decision will gradually improve the material conditions of the people, will eradicate illiteracy, develop the education, public health and the culture and ensure tranquillity, legality and the revolutionary order in the country.

The creation of the bases of a new political system which is the exponent of the democratic substance of the revolution is one of the gains of the April Revolution.

In addition to the state power organs, this system covers the National Fatherland Front as the bastion and stronghold of the power of the working people in the DRA together with all its inherent social and popular organisations, namely, the trade unions, Democratic Organisation of Youth of Afghanistan, Women's Democratic Organisation of Afghanistan, farmers cooperatives, unions of creative intellectuals, council of religious scholars and religious figures, tribal assemblies and so on.

A new political system has been created and is functioning. The party will pay earnest attention, in future, to its improvement, its democratisation, and the consolidation of its ties with the people.

The party has always believed and believes that the question of political power is a major and basic question of the revolution. The April Revolution brought about the state power of the new type which is marked with the sovereignty of the workers and all patriots of the country.

The complete elimination of the armed counterrevolution, further stabilisation, fortification of more confident revolutionary power in the areas where the undeclared war of the reactionary forces are still continuing and the ensurance of a stable peace all over the country constitute the most important and urgent task of the party and the revolutionary power. The thesis of a countrywide durable peace which has been laid out by our party is more than anything else meant to ensure normal, tranquil and peaceful conditions for us to hold joint discussion on the existing problems and to find solutions to them.

Only the provision of such conditions can open the path for the complete realisation of all social and economic transformations charted in the program of action.

Our party took the political power by the will and for the benefit of the people. This fact and this characteristic determines the nature, directions and objectives of our party in economic, social and political spheres.

The realization of these in practice will have great impact on the life of our people and every Afghan family. When working out this policy we took as a base the actual results gained after the April Revolution and especially its new phase. These results have been fully detailed in the plan of action. For this reason, I want only to underline the following points which specify the principled approach of the party and revolutionary power to the problem of economic and social development.

Above all we should have in mind that in our country, objectively speaking, different forms and systems of economy have come into being and exist like public sector in industry and agriculture, cooperative sector in villages and in cities, state sector, private capital, mixed sector, private sector in industry and transport, agricultural and trade, small scale production in cities and villages, farmers and professionals, traditional economic forms, peasant economy in natural and semi-natural form and tribal economy.

In the phase of national democratic revolution this multi-form economy will be preserved. We do not intend to speed up the removal of these systems unnecessarily and artificially as far as they have come into being historically.

Conversely, we will consistently and courageously work to use the possibilities of all kinds of systems and tems of economy have the growth of productive forces of the country and well-being of our people. [sentence as published]

Thanks to the planned and phased growth of the role and importance of state sector and planning and thanks to giving preference to the state sector, all economic resources would be used more effectively and fully for obtaining the general objective of raising the level of well-being of the working people and securing the consolidation of the country's defence power. But the party and the state will adopt all the necessary measures to ensure that modernizing of the infrastructure of multi-system economy will not be pursued to the detriment of the toiling people, it will be based on the objective of improving the conditions of their work and life and for raising their material and cultural level.

The social and economic programmes of our party are realistic and inter-related and are based on the existing conditions and possibilities. For this reason our party pays permanent attention to the country's economic problems and does every thing possible for the consolidation of economy, to increase production of industry and handicrafts, and agricultural produce and to improve commerce.

Naturally, the execution of all these tasks is not possible in a short span of time. Moreover the present conditions and circumstances, namely, the undeclared war of imperialism and reaction of the region, makes the fulfillment of these tasks difficult. But the revolutionary party and government declare that they will not allow the things which it is possible to do today to the benefit of the people to postponed for an indefinite fututre.

Having in view the economic characteristics of Afghanistan, special attention in the programme of action has been paid to the problems of agricultural growth and the betterment of the peasant's conditions.

In its agrarian policy, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan relies on the conclusion that only through the abolition of feudal system can it open wide prospects for the agricultural production and utilise the big possibilities in this field. The party and the state of the people will consistently and firmly follow the policy line based on the democratic solution of the land problem with the direct participation of farmers and their increased role in this vital task.

It is obvious that the new land relations will envisage reasonable limitation of the land holding by an individual to ensure that the interest of others, having a natural need for land, is not harmed. The landed property of every person whether he inherited it or got it as a result of the agrarian reforms, will be guaranteed to the extent stipulated by law. These new relations are aimed at the creation of such agricultural conditions which accord with social justice and the sacred principles of Islam so that the toiling peasants have enough land for a worthy life for themselves and their families and for increasing agricultural production.

For this purpose the peasants will be helped in getting loans and technical, agronomical and veterinary aid. Likewise, chemical fertiliser, sowing seeds and agricultural implements will be provided to them on favourable terms and extensive help will be rendered to them for eradication of illiteracy and the growth of cultural and other services.

As has been mentioned several times, our revolutionary state will have in view the interests of producers of the commodities needed by people and will give all kinds of help to produce and increase such products.

The revolutionary party and state will help in the development of various kinds of peasants cooperatives including cooperatives for production, for agricultural services and marketing. For the realisation of this policy, the principle of voluntary membership in the cooperatives will be strictly observed and no coerción will be permitted.

The life and the experience of the peasant will teach him that his interests will be better and fuller maintained in the cooperatives than in solitary work and outside the cooperatives.

The construction of a new and blossoming Afghanistan has an unbreakable link with the development on industries, transportation and communications. Without the factories, machines and electricity no real development and progress will exist and the needs of our people for a normal life worthy of man will not be met. For this reason also the revolutionary party and government consider the assurance of continued growth and expansion of the industries, energy, transportation and communications as the pillar and fundamental base of the country's economic policy as an inseparable and important portion of the program of action and the policy arising from it.

Here I must say with full frankness that the targets of the program, its prospects and the keenness for their realisation should not prevent us from seeing and handling the urgent daily tasks. What we must accomplish without delay today, should not be left hidden from our eyesight. It is necessary that all the factories, plants and mines should work normally. This should not recur again that the enterprises despite the availability of raw materials and work power are left inactive or not work to their full productive capacity. The power of revolutionary sovereignty lies in its ability to rapidly solve the most acute, urgent and vital problems.

Thanks to the victory of the April Revolution and the party's reasonable social policy, the role and importance of the working class in Afghanistan is gradually but continuously increasing in the life of the society. Our workers are changed from a class exploited by feudal, bourgeoisie regimes and big capitalists to a class collectively owning the means of production in the state sector. The revolutionary party and state in future also will try that the workers engaged in the state sector, in the conditions of national democratic revolution, form the rapidly growing and best organized force. The economic policy of the party and state which is attending to the creation of firm, growing and dynamic industrial pillar and to the strengthening and expansion of state sector, will help in this task.

The qualitative and quantitative growth of the working class of Afghanistan which will be maintained as the result of pursuing such a policy, will have an increasing effect on all the spheres of the social life and will strengthen the leading role of the party.

The growth and development in the conditions of a nationwide peace will give an opportunity to all of us, to all the noble people of Afghanistan to live better than today. But the party and the government know well that for a really firm and unshakable national and patriotic unity a firm political, social and economic foundation is needed. Such a foundation is taken into consideration in the charting of the program of action. In this program all classes, strata, groups, tribes, peoples and nationalities will find the explanation and worthy reflection of their fundamental interests and the proper, reasonable and specific ways of their planned and gradual ensurance.

In this connection it is necessary that parallel with the creation of great state enterprises, which form the inudstrial basis and foundation of the new Afghanistan, the possibilities for the combined and private sectors will also be fully utilised prior to all for the expansion of production of consumer goods for the people.

The revolutionary government is creating necessary economic and legal bases for the long-term effective and mutually beneficial cooperation of private sector and national capitalists with the state both in the framework of the mixed sector and of individual agreements.

The party and state have always paid great attention to organizing and managing of the effective and long-term cooperation with the petty traders and professionals and correctly appreciated their vital and important role for meeting the needs of the people for the products and commodities of primary need and helps them in the fulfillment of this role.

I stress once again that we on behalf of the state propose reliable long-term and honest cooperation with national capitalists, petty merchants and professionals and we also expect from them such cooperation which would be reflected in the necessary participation and efforts directed at the reconstruction of the country and the prosperity of the people. We expect that in this way they will become participants in the process of national and democratic changes in Afghanistan and will maintain this position throughout this phase.

Our socio-economic policy which is based on the essence of the national and democratic revolution, is addressed to the consolidation and strengthening of the unity and cooperation among all national and democratic classes, strata and groups of the people of Afghanistan.

This policy prepares necessary grounds for the strengthening and increasing the effectiveness of the cooperation of the revolutionary state with the intelligentsia in order to expand their participation in developing sciences, technology, literature, arts and finally for providing for all-sided progress of the country. We appreciate the fact that the best representatives and considerable part of the intelligentsia have aligned with the progressive and revolutionary theory. The party and revolutionary state will make constant and target oriented efforts, in future, too, to ensure that the importance and the number of the revolutionary intelligentsia increase as a result of the best representatives of the toilers joining their ranks.

Now we assess some of the aspects and problems pertaining to the national policy. This policy was not temporary and ephemeral but emanates from the substances of a national and democratic revolution.

In the course of the long history of our country, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is the first state that has made it its aim to achieve the real material and moral progress of all the inhabitants of the country, to ensure a full and genuine equality of the rights and to provide the grounds for all-round development for all nationalities, clans and tribes of the country.

Equal opportunities are being afforded for all of them to take part in the social and state affairs, in the implementation of the revolutionary transformations and the defence of the beloved country.

The party and the revolutionary state is paying now and in the future [will] also pay heed to and respect the historical, religious and cultural traditions, customs and rites of the nationalities, clans and tribes of Afghanistan.

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the state of the DRA, view with appreciation and respect the role and significance of Pushtun tribes in the history of our country, and their defence of our borders and, regardful of their traditions, customs and their common law and their way of life to follow a policy of trust, peace and cooperation towards these tribes which emanates from the substance of the April Revolution and is in accord with principles and tenets of the sacred religion of Islam. [paragraph as published]

For our party the moral development of the people and the ensuring of the progress of science and culture is one of the most important spheres.

The victory of the April Revolution has provided the conditions and the prerequisites for putting at the disposal of the broad masses of people the wealth and values of national and world culture, sciences, and arts.

Obviously to accomplish this task a long time, and great and planned endeavours are required on the part of the party and all the society.

In our country difficulties and special problems exist in the sphere of ideological work emanating from a multi-form system of economy, heterogeneity of our society, a complex tribal and national structure, the vestiges of still powerful diverse exploitative and reactionary ideas and thoughts and the impact of nationalism and the past national division.

The majority of our people are either illiterate or with inadequate education. All these difficulties and problems become more acute as a result of the ideological aggression of imperialism and the reaction of the region against Afghanistan.

The work of all means of ideological access to the masses should be enhanced in accord with the demands of the present stage and the forthcoming stages of the revolution.

The first successful steps have been taken in this direction. On the basis of the accomplished transformations, strong blows have been dealt to the positions and roots of the feudal ideology, vestiges of national disorder, and the ideological sabotages of imperialism. The level of consciousness of the workers is being raised speedily and their patriotic unity is getting consolidated. Due to the initiative of the party a comprehenisve national campaign for eradication of illiteracy has been started and is expanding.

The gradual eradication of illiteracy has an exceptional importance for the state and for its future. It is necessary that education should consistently develop in future, too.

The policy of the party in connection with the sacred religion of Islam was explicitly and expressly formulated in the program of action.

All of us see and know that this issue has received the special attention of the enemies of the country and revolution. They exert considerable efforts so as to distort and misrepresent the substance of our policy in relation to Islam and pious Moslems. The unlimited lie-spreading and a poisonous and sinister conduct are the weapons of our enemies. Does Islam negate progress? Does Islam negate justice? And does Islam not denounce the bloodshed of Moslems?

The experience of Islamic countries like the People's Republic of Algeria, Syria, Libya, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and finally our experience proved that the revolutionary transformations do not have any contradictions with the social content of Islam and its historical call for justice, equality and the eradication of exploitation of man by man in the social life. These transformations on the contrary provide necessary grounds for the practical realisation of these tenets in line with the historical aspirations of the broad masses of Moslem peoples and with a sound understanding of proper use of the values of Islam.

The PDPA and DRA on the basis of the principles and objectives of April Revolution once again officially declare that all the rights and freedoms of Moslems, and noble and patriotic religious leaders and scholars are guaranteed in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

The state support to all religious institutions and religious figures and to all Moslems in relation to their religious activities and their efforts for the cause of social justice and equality of all Moslems in the social, economic and cultural life, has been guaranteed.

But the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the revolutionary state will never reconcile with the efforts of the enemies of the revolution and the people who wish to use the sacred religion of Islam for diverting Afghanistan from the path it has chosen.

The PDPA is the central nucleus of the political and social system of Afghanistan and the leading and guiding force of our society because it is equipped with the advanced revolutionary [as published] and reflects the interests of all workers, peasants and all the working people of Afghanistan. Likewise, it draws and implements the political, strategic and tactical policy of the struggle for the cause of a prosperous future. The party is the most organised, ideologically cemented, advanced vanguard of our society having unbreakable ties with the broadest masses of the people.

With the growth of the productive forces of the society and the changes in the social relations, the leading role of the party and its penetration and influence on the masses of the people will always grow and increase.

Therefore, the most important direction in the political work of the party is securing an unbreakable link with the people who are the source of the power of party.

I should point out that after the conversion of the party into the ruling party, the importance of ideological work has greatly increased. Above all it is only our party which shoulders the main responsibility for the theoretical generalization of the present phase of revolution and its prospectives. The party, relying on its progressive and revolutionary theory and its experience, with deep understanding of the life of the society, foresees and gives clearer perspectives of the evolution of the society and state.

The most significant aspect of our ideological work is constituted by imparting of revolutionary awareness to the masses and strengthening their belief in the correctness of the theories and policy of the party. This helps in converting the masses of the people into the active fighters for the cause of revolution.

The party believes that any effort to jeopardise the unity and integrity of the party ranks and manifestations of fractionism is in contradiction with the great role of the party as political vanguard and the leading force of the society.

The basic interests and historical responsibilities of the party before the people consider any manifestations of fractionism as contradictory with the prideful title of the party membership and will have no place in the party ranks. Comrades delegates, our party is the political vanguard of the working class and all toilers of Afghanistan.

We should take care that the party ranks are completed by the best, most active and the most conscious representatives of the toilers. This forms the main source of the life and safety of the party and its power and ability to struggle. The party as a social phenomena is like a living organism which is in a state of permanent growth and development and does not accept any pause and stagnation.

The party should not be satisfied with what it has gained and does not have the right to do so. The critical analysis of the achievement and critical approach toward its activities is indicative of the seriousness of the party and each of its members and is the sign of the party's power and ability for being a vanguard.

Therefore, the committees and the primary party organisations are dutybound to make all possible efforts to complete and improve the forms and methods of its activities, to increase permanently its efficiency and to raise the general level of its work and struggle.

Evaluation and approval of the programme of action has a principled significance for the party, state and the society. The programme expresses the theoretical evaluation and the practical approach of our party to the problems of the present stage of the national democratic revolution in Afghanistan and its prospects in the near future. This document for guidance and promotion has been drawn up in accordance with the present conditions and situation in the party, country and the region because our party, revolutionary government and broad social circles in our country have traversed a long path and have acquired new political, social, ideological and economic experience, especially after the victory of the April Revolution.

The formulation of the programme of action reflects completely the characteristics of the present stage, i.e., the stage of materialisation of the primary national democratic changes and struggle for the cause of defending revolution. We have not yet accomplished the total national democratic changes. But with persistence and steadfastness we have accomplished changes and will do so. This is the only essential and correct basis for the discharge of the totally national democratic tasks in the future.

The programme of action of the PDPA explicitly and completely reflects the fundamental interests of the main motive forces of the revolution, i.e., the working class, peasants, revolutionary intellectuals and the broad masses of the toilers.

In the meantime it expresses the real, correct and possible ways and methods of increasing their roles in the party, the state and the society.

Our time and objectives are clear and explicit. We want what the overwhelming majority of our proud and free-born people demand, i.e., we desire to maintain and preserve the freedom and independence, progress and the blossoming of our beloved country.

We respect the religious feelings of our compatriots and our means and the possibilities to ensure conditions in which each noble person of the country could freely and happily live and work, have clothes and shelter and enjoy the peace in the country and the happiness at home. But a handful of our despised and main enemies and the lackeys and the accomplices of the hated and worthless feudals, overlords, usurers and toppled reactionaries and international imperialism obstruct the realisation of what the people need.

Unfortunately there are still some persons who either because of being forced or being deceived and in some cases due to lack of understanding of the objectives and the intentions of the party and the revolutionary government are still members of the mercenary bands and resort to fratricidal war and thus commit a major sin against Islam and the homeland. All these actions have caused disruption and lead to deterioration of the military and political situation in the country, causing serious difficulties in the work of industries, agriculture, transportation and commerce.

The programme of action and also the present situation in the country has brought forth the necessity of focussing the attention of all the party, government organs, all the social organisations belonging to the national fatherland in solving and accomplishing of these urgent tasks of first order.

First of all the party committees and organs of state power in the centre as well as in the localities are dutybound to direct their efforts in armed struggle against the counter-revolution and to the stabilisation and strengthening of durable sovereignty of the people in the localities throughout the country. This is the most important task for all the party and the entire people.

Therefore, it is necessary to create a unified and collective system for the defence of revolution and the people consisting of army, police, groups for the defence of the revolution, militia, tribal militia, local resistance groups and regional defence units.

With decisiveness, persistence and daring more groups of patriots should be created and strengthened so that they will be active in each province and each district. The effective and sure methods of work of these defence groups in all establishments, villages and other residential localities should be ensured.

The army, the police and the state services constitute the fundamental and decisive link in the ensuring of decisive victory against the counter-revolution. The Central Committee of the party, the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers of the DRA are paying attention always to strengthen them.

The technical level of equipping and combat readiness of the units and requirements of the army and the police have been raised considerably. And the majority of the soldiers, non-commissioned officers and officers discharge their duties and responsibilities honourably towards the homeland and the revolution.

Meanwhile in the perfecting and preparing of the units and regiments of the army, police, organs of state services the solution of the problems of build up, consolidation of armed forces, security organs and the maintaining and protection of social order is still the related issue for all the party and all the social organisation. The armed forces should be strengthened and continuously perfected with the new cadres and "their level of political and combat readiness should be raised and this should receive continuous and regular attention and their links with the broad masses of the people should be strengthened.

After the victory of April Revolution and especially its new evolutionary phase we learned many new things.

Now with boldness and decisiveness the centre of gravity of the work and conscious struggle should be transferred day by day to the provinces, districts and the villages. The main duty of the central organs of the PDPA, revolutionary government, ministries, departments and National Fatherland Front are to ensure this question.

The betterment of all works in the field of economy should not be delayed until complete crushing of counterrevolution and establishment of nationwide peace. The people should feel this very day the attendance and the tender care of the revolutionary party and government and the advantages of the new social order.

So far we have been able only to raise the wages of the workers and employees and the food allowances of the state employees. The total expenditure of the state for this amounts to 1.5 billion afghanis in a year. But for the subsequent steps to solve the social problems it is necessary to raise the efficiency of production in all the fields and the economic sectors.

At the present time the party committees in the provinces, districts and local organs of the state power should pay their attention to the spring cultivation. Measures should be taken to ensure security and help to the farmers and cooperatives by supplying them with seeds, chemical fertilizers, tools and equipments and the technical means. At the same time and in all the places where it is possible the implementation of the land and water reforms should continue in accordance with the decisions of the Political Bureau, Revolutionary Council, and the Council of Ministers of the DRA.

The provincial cities and the districts party committees, state organs and first of all ministries and central departments are charged with the duty to concentrate all their efforts to reactivate all those economic projects and activities of the establishments that have been destroyed or damaged by the enemies.

Within the shortest possible time the cement factory of Herat, the textile mills of Qandahar and Herat, the sugar factory and some of the irrigation establishments, i.e., the establishments with a higher degree of preparedness, should be activated. These establishments should work and place the crops needed at the disposal of the people. The Central Committee of the party and the Council of Ministers should intensify their control and to seriously call to account the leaders of the ministries, central departments and the state organs in the localities.

Preparations for the countrywide PDPA conference was a serious trial of our gains in all spheres of life and obviously in the party life as well. This process indicated that the party really constitutes the central nucleus of the new social and political system. The party has grown quantitatively and has been consolidated from the organisational point of view and rightfully fulfills the role of leading force in our society.

In army, 60 percent of those who have been admitted as probationary members in the party have a working class and peasantry background. These results are not bad at all. Attention should be paid to the numerical aspect of the party ranks in future too.

However, improvement of the qualitative composition of the party is of no less importance [than] who should be admitted to the party membership in the first place. The answer is simple and clear: those who defend the revolution open-heartedly, those who obtain victory with their work and blood. More than anyone else workers, farmers, craftsmen, soldiers and army and police cadets should be admitted to the party.

I would like to talk about another important problem which attains a special significance in the context of party structure. Now, the party's provincial and city committees, party precinct and districts are charged to organise the admittance procedure of the new members and the arrangement of the party forces in such a way that there would be party organisations in every institution, in every productive sector, in every village, subdistrict and in every residential area in cities. These circles constitute the basis and pillar of the party and the party committee should give permanent and increasing attention to the primary party organisations. Only in this manner would we be able to ensure the impact and the permanent and all-sided influence of the party among the masses.

The committee and all healthy and principled members of the party always consolidate the unification of the party and raise its discipline and its organisational level.

We point out with satisfaction that the incorrect actions by some of the individuals have been rejected by the absolute majority of party organisations. I think that in respect of such comrades we should be patient and attentive, discuss with them and explain and make them understand the principle of the revolutionary party life and the significance of discipline and order.

If even that did not help then, nothing remains except to apply measures envisaged in the constitution.

The individuals who do not obey the discipline and trample the decisions of the party cannot belong to the party. They should have learnt that the party is powerful as a result of the discipline and the orderliness of its members.

Now, the great work of the preparation and distribution of party cards is in progress. This is an important event in the party life. It is the serious task of the party committees to take full advantage from this broad work for the consolidation of the unity and the creation of a model order in party affairs.

In the activities of the Politburo, the Secretariat and the branches of the party's Central Committee great attention is being paid to the task of selection, appointment and training of cadres because the officials included in the list of the positions under consideration of the party committees are considered as the political organisers of the masses and the leader of the most important sections of work. Once again I point out that the party committees are dutybound to fight decisively every kind of deviation from and distortion of the party policy with regard to the cadres, because the content of all of our work, its efficiency and the party authority is related to this task.

The most important standard for the evaluation of the cadres is their scientific and political characteristics. We should keep in mind more adequately the multinational composition of the country and should help in the task of appointing worthy representatives of the various nationalities, tribes and clans in responsible posts in the party and state organs in the capital as well as in the provinces.

The success of our great task, the further development of the revolution and defence of its gains is decisively linked with the participation of the vast masses of the people and their activity, support and consciousness. For this reason also, for the revolutionary party and state, in the ideological field, priority is given to the popular political work, as the major means and way of the attraction of toilers and broad masses of people, prior to all, the workers and farmers, to actively participate in the accomplishment and consolidation of revolutionary transformation of its defence.

Above all else, the entire system of party education should be raised to a higher level. Every party member should deeply learn the theoretical principles of party policy and should well know how to implement this policy in practice and how to explain it to others in an understandable manner.

Special attention should be paid to the party training and ideological maturity of the full and young probationary members of the party. Due to the conditions of creation and growth of our party, the youth and the new members form more than half of its strength.

Now there exists no more important duty for the party than the communication of its revolutionary words to every individual of our compatriots and attraction of all strata of the people and every individual Muslim to conscious and active work and life.

Meanwhile the offensive forms of propagation and publicity work which proved effective in practice should be used boldly, decisively and more broadly. This work should be done more actively among the citizens who were or still are under the oppression of the counterrevolution.

The mass media have a great part to play in the fulfillment of this task. Tremendous work has been done lately for raising the efficiency of the press, publications, radio, television and for strengthening the party's leadership over them.

Now the time has come for their activities to increase greatly. They should present the party's ideals and the contents of its constitutional documents to all the strata of our society in a simple and understandable form. They should be collective propagators, publicists and organisers in the full sense of the word.

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan believes in the fact that the successful and forward-based growth and development of the revolutionary transformations in our country are linked not only with the internal conditions but with the external conditions also. Therefore, the revolutionary party and state are trying to ensure the most favourable conditions of foreign policy for the realization of these transformations and the peoples' life. But this task requires peace. Unshakable will and consistent action in defence of consolidation of peace in the region and the world over is the main and basic direction of our revolutionary party and state in their approach toward the international affairs. This fact defines the nature of our foreign policy.

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in their foreign policy activity believe that Afghanistan's sovereignty and freedom, prosperity and flourishing of the people of Afghanistan can be ensured only with the consolidation and permanent growth of brotherly friendship and fruitful cooperation with the great Soviet Union.

This friendship and cooperation is the foundation stone of the new Afghanistan's foreign policy and an important vital factor in the defence of our beloved homeland and the current transformations of the April Revolution.

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the state of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan attach extraordinary importance to the deepening and expansion of fraternal relations with the ruling parties, governments and peoples of the socialist countries and hold in esteem the achievements of these countries in the construction of a new society.

We are fully determined to develop and expand in the future also the fraternal, friendly relations and traditional cooperation with the great Soviet Union and other socialist countries in the economic, commercial, cultural, scientific and technical spheres, etc., as an essential prerequisite for our country's development.

Our country seriously and without bias respects the principles and Charter of the United Nations Organization and is determined to establish with this stand its relations with all countries irrespective of their political and social systems on the basis of the principles of respect to the sovereignty and national independence, equality of rights, territorial integrity, non-aggression and non-interference in the internal affairs.

Meanwhile we do not give permission to anyone to intervene in the internal affairs of our independent and sovereign country. In connection with this I want to speak about one of the latest steps of Mr Reagan which is an open intervention in the internal affairs of our country.

The people of Afghanistan vehemently and with profound wrath and indignation condemn the seditious and conspiratorial action of Reagan in respect of the so-called Afghanistan Day, March 21. We know full well that these so-called days of other countries which are pursuing a road of development, independent of the U.S., and a road of basic transformations, like the so-called Day of Poland, the Day of Czechoslovakia and so on, have been proclaimed too often and already no one remembers them. In respect of the so-called Afghanistan Day, too, it will be like that.

The people of Afghanistan are taking firm and confident strides everyday for the defence of the revolutionary gains, for raising their level of life, eliminating illiteracy, poverty and backwardness, and the building of a just and prosperous life and are achieving great and greater successes.

Every day, we capture new battle positions in the courses of our glorious struggles. With every passing day, the enemies of Afghanistan are confronted with more ignominious and more shameful defeats and our people are hoisting the banner of revolutionary struggles ever higher in a more prideful way. These are the real and prideful days of the people of Afghanistan and we do not need another "day" imposed by Reagans.

The state of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan reiterates and confirms its invariable loyalty and adherence to the principles of the Non-aligned Movement which our country has joined from the very beginning as one of its founders.

Our country and our people will make consistent efforts for the consolidation, growth and expansion of the mutually advantageous friendship and cooperation with brotherly Muslim countries and the Muslim peoples in the common struggle for the cause of peace, disarmament, human rights and human progress.

The party, state and the people of Afghanistan will consistently and firmly consolidate their unity and solidarity with all the peoples of the world in the common struggle for the cause of peace, international detente, disarmament, banning and elimination of nuclear weapons, for the cause of the friendship between the peoples, freedom, democracy, human rights and social progress and against the forces of imperialism, aggression and reaction. We give our all-sided support to the noble struggle of all the oppressed peoples for the freedom, independence, national and social progress.

Our approach in regard to the international problems charted in the program of action is as mentioned above. As you see this position is based on the principled foundation for which the party has already declared its loyalty and punctuality.

These are the tested and reliable principles of internationalist solidarity, peaceful coexistence and nonalignment.

We proceed from the same positions in respect of the solution of international problems with which our country is directly confronted today.

We are continuing our efforts for seeking peaceful ways to solve these problems and holding of talks between Afghanistan and her neighbouring countries, Pakistan and Iran. This task accords with the basic and long-term interests of the peoples of our countries and the region as a whole.

The Government and the people of the DRA express their traditional sentiments of respect and friendship to the people of India. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan will consistently endeavour to consolidate and develop good neighbourly relations with India.

The adoption of the program of action is a major event in the life of our party and the country.

The approval and the persistent and full implementation of the program of action will also have a great international importance.

Normalisation of the state of affairs in our country, consolidation of the revolutionary order on the basis of the accomplished national, democratic transformations and the annihilation of the armed counterrevolution means taking a noteworthy part in the stabilization of the situation in the region, the Asian Continent and in international arena as a whole.

This helps in the creation of conditions for the strengthening and consolidating the peaceful coexistence and the useful mutual cooperation which benefits all the people of the world.

NEW TIMES VIEWS CONSCRIPTION AMENDMENT

LD080548 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Kabul, 7 Apr (BAKHTAR) -- Kabul NEW TIMES carries in its latest issue an editorial captioned: "Ensuring Increased Role of Youth in Defence." The editorial reads in part:

The amendment to the law on general military obligations, which sets the new minimum age limit for the draftees into the national military service at 19 years, has been promulgated with effect from yesterday.

The need to introduce this amendment stemmed from the new objective factor of the tremendous increase in the role of youth in all spheres of national development and their yearnings to be active participants in the defence of the country against the undeclared war which continues to be carried out against Afghanistan from across its borders, especially from the territory of Pakistan, by U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonists, Pakistani militarists and regional reaction of varied description.

In the new evolutionary phase of the April Revolution, especially during the past year, thousands of young people had been voluntarily reporting at the military recruitment centres and asking for being admitted into the ranks of the armed forces of their revolutionary country. Yet despite their passionate pleas, they could not be drafted into the Armed Forces of the DRA, as the responsible recruiting authorities were handicapped by the existence in law of a higher age limit for the draft. The representatives of youth organisation also pointed out repeatedly that throughout the world the increased constructive role of the youth in handling affairs of the state and society is increasingly being recognised with the minimum age limits for being an eligible voter, or joining state service having been lowered down in many countries. The fact is that the minimum age limit in many countries for joining military service is still lower than even the new minimum age set yesterday in the amended law on general military obligation.

However, while duly appreciating the revolutionary fervour of youth for joining the party and the revolutionary state in the defence of the gains of revolution against continued hostile interventions and aggressions of imperialism and reaction aimed at destabilising peace and normalcy in the country, the revolutionary party and state could not remain indifferent to the pressing need for the higher education of Afghan youth in this age of scientific and technical revolution.

NATEQ-NURI APPOINTED SECURITY COMMANDER IN CHIEF

LD081108 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri met and conferred with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i this morning. At the end of this meeting, the interior minister told our correspondent: In a decree issued by the imam of the nation and approved by the president, I have been appointed commander in chief of all the forces concerned with security matters. During today's meeting I presented a report on past activities and we discussed the implementation of the imam's decree. Mr Khamene'i gave me the necessary instructions.

The interior minister added: During this meeting I also submitted a report to the president about the measures taken in connection with the Council of Experts and the questions that have been raised about this.

DEPUTY MINISTER ATTACKED, WOUNDED IN TEHRAN

NC081208 Paris AFP in English 1204 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Tehran, 8 Apr (AFP) -- An Iranian vice-minister for foreign affairs, Javad Mansuri, was wounded and his chauffeur killed early today when unknown assailants fired on his car in the center of Tehran, the Iranian ETTELA'AT newspaper reported.

One of the vice-minister's bodyguards was wounded in the attack, the newspaper said, adding that Mr Mansuri had been rushed to hospital but was not in a critical condition.

ETTELA'AT said that the three men responsible for the attack, described as "U.S. mercenaries," escaped in a car after a 10-minute shoot-out with Mr Mansuri's escort.

The aggressors used grenades and assault rifles, the paper said.

VOICE OF IRAN ON ARRESTS, CLASHES IN AZARBAYJAN

NC080641 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Text] A Voice of Iran correspondent reports that the state newspaper, KEYHAN, reported on the arrest of three more Mojahedin members and the discovery of several bombs in a safe house. Our correspondent says that according to KEYHAN a member of the central (?cadre) of the military branch of the Mojahedin organization and two other members were arrested and imprisoned in Shahrud.

Another Voice of Iran correspondent reports from West Azarbayjan that once again strong clashes broke out between opponents and the regime's revolution guards in the Miando'ab and Marivan areas.

This report states that the clashes were spread throughout a vast area of these two regions and at least five villages were raided by the regime's revolution guards. No further details are available on these renewed attacks but a report by another colleague indicates that the regime's press, namely, KEYHAN, briefly referred to these clashes in their Wednesday issues.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 848

LD071758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Communique 848 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Another 147 Iraqi POW's, captured by Islam's combatants during the victorious Fath operations, were evacuated to Tehran yesterday afternoon.

Throughout the southern fronts, exchange of artillery and heavy-weapon fire continued sporadically yesterday and on every front the ground forces' powerful artillery fire dealt effective blows at enemy tank and artillery positions and servicemen, and all activities by enemy engineering units in the Al-Faw region were prevented.

Our heroic naval forces, during yesterday's exchange of fire in the Khorramshahr region, destroyed a number of trenches belonging to the Saddamist forces and killed or wounded a number of their servicemen. Our gendarmerie combatants on the Abadan fronts opened mortar fire on enemy positions and killed or wounded some 20 Saddamist servicemen and destroyed an enemy communication mast and four mortar and machinegun emplacements.

Certain residential parts of Abadan continued to be subjected to long-range artillery by the Saddamists yesterday.

On the Nowsud front, thanks to artillery and mortar fire opened by our combatants on enemy positions, a number of enemy servicemen were killed and losses were inflicted on Saddamist positions.

In the Toveyleh region, too, several of their supply points were set ablaze and a number of Iraqi servicemen were either killed or wounded.

In the Khormal region, too, our combatants killed a number of Iraqi servicemen and destroyed or put out of action several of their vehicles.

Our heroic combatants in the ground forces on the Salehabad front opened artillery fire on enemy artillery positions and servicemen and silenced their fire. They destroyed a truck and several supply points of the Iraqi forces and killed more than 20 Saddamist servicemen.

During an exchange of fire on the Sumar front, enemy tank positions were pounded and total damage was inflicted on their positions. Appreciable numbers of enemy servicemen were either killed or wounded.

On the Gilan-e Gharb and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab fronts, the soldiers of our ground forces destroyed two enemy trucks -- one carrying ammunition and the other carrying enemy servicemen. We have no accurate information about the number of enemy servicemen killed.

Exchange of fire continued sporadically on other western fronts.

Yesterday a number of raiding Iraqi aircraft which intended to violate the airspace of several parts of our country's southern regions fled from the scene thanks to fire opened by the antiaircraft units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION CUTOFF ANNOUNCED

GF080710 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] The spokesman of the Ministry of Communication announced that due to improvements being made in the quality of the international communication and renovation and replacement of wiring in the new system of ground stations, all international communication outside the country will be cut off for 24 hours.

This cutoff will be effective from 0900 on Saturday, 10 April, until 0900 on Sunday, 11 April.

DER SPIEGEL INTERVIEWS CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR

DW071347 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 5 Apr 82 pp 185-189

[Interview with Central Bank Governor Mohsen Nurbakhsh; date and place of interview not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Mr Nurbakhsh, your country has been waging war with Iraq for a year and a half now. How long can Iran hold out economically?

Nurbakhsh: I am sure that the war will be decided in the next few months, and certainly on the battlefield. We have launched an offensive. Iran will be victorious. Then we will be able to concentrate fully on building our economy and increasing our people's standard of living.

SPIEGEL: It looks as though this standard is rather low now. The Iranians obviously don't have enough to eat anymore.

Nurbakhsh: There are no wars in which the people do not suffer. However, there is nothing like famine or an acute shortage of medicine in our country.

SPIEGEL: There are lines outside the grocery stores...

Nurbakhsh: ...This is just the consequence of the rationing of the most important basic foodstuffs such as bread and meat by the government and the Majlis. A government needs to do that in any war to prevent hoarding.

SPIEGEL: Where does Iran get its meat, wheat and fodder?

Nurbakhsh: We import up to 50 percent of this. Until recently we bought meat and wheat in New Zealand and in Europe. Now, if possible, we only place orders with countries which also buy our products. Thus meat and wheat now come from Turkey, and some of the fodder comes from Syria.

SPIEGEL: You certainly cannot finance the war with exports alone.

Nurbakhsh: At the moment the costs of the war consume nearly one-third of our state budget of roughly Dm90 billion. We are trying to help ourselves in financing this budget. It is covered by oil sales, taxes and revenue from our banking transactions.

SPIEGEL: Are you still getting credits from Western banks?

Nurbakhsh: We have no need to borrow money outside Iran. In the meantime, money is no longer flowing from Iran to foreign countries, either.

SPIEGEL: Has your Central Bank -- as Swiss banks estimate -- sold about 150 tons of gold, worth a total of Dm3 billion in the past few weeks to finance the war against Iraq?

Nurbakhsh: We have not sold any gold from the reserves of the Central Bank, nor will we do so, for understandable reasons. At the moment gold costs $320 an ounce, and we purchased it at prices of up to $850. Selling gold now would bring us too great a loss. We have not touched our reserves since the beginning of the war.

SPIEGEL: How are Iranians managing to operate the factories which foreign companies built for the shah?

Nurbakhsh: Do you want me to say that I don't trust my compatriots to manage factories? I can prove the opposite. We have quadrupled our steel output, which was 500,000 tons a year during the shah's era. After the Americans left, we completed a polyacrylic factory left half-finished by the U.S. Du Pont Chemical Corporation, and we will soon be able to utilize it to 90 percent of its capacity.

SPIEGEL: Does Iran intend to do everything on its own if possible and isolate itself even more from Western countries?

Nurbakhsh: Not at all. We are trying to restore the severed contacts with some countries, above all in Europe, but not in the way the shah did it. His investment policy made our country totally dependent on foreign countries.

SPIEGEL: In which fields?

Nurbakhsh: Take the automobile sector. The shah brought Renault from France, Talbot from England, General Motors from the United States and other corporations into the country. They merely built assembly plants in which our workers were allowed to assembly the automobiles from the individual parts they supplied. The corporations raked in the profits in their home countries.

SPIEGEL: What do you propose to change there?

Nurbakhsh: We are still assembling. We just cannot wipe out in one stroke the economic policy we inherited from the shah. Tens of thousands of jobs are involved. It is our goal, however, to produce vehicles ourselves under license in the future.

SPIEGEL: What is new about Iran's economic policy?

Nurbakhsh: We are just drafting a 25-year plan for the industrialization of the country and for the improvement of the neglected infrastructure. Heading the list of the urgent investments is the improvement of production facilities such as metallurgical works. The shah, in contrast, spent half the oil revenues on consumer goods which he ordered in the West.

SPIEGEL: Your country proposes to become less dependent on foreign countries, but in the oil business, which brings in your most important revenues, you depend on the buyer countries more than ever before. How do you propose to cope with this problem?

Nurbakhsh: If possible, we intend to order the capital equipment we require, such as machines or special tools, only from the countries which buy our oil.

SPIEGEL: Aren't your investment plans being frustrated now by the current oil glut and the price decline?

Nurbakhsh: The excessive supply currently affects all producer countries. As long as Saudi Arabia keeps oil production at a high level and prices drop, sales difficulties inevitably must be anticipated. We, too, had problems as long as we stayed with the agreed OPEC prices while the others undercut prices.

SPIEGEL: What about now?

Nurbakhsh: Now we plan to sell at least the quantity we have planned, which is a daily average of 1.2 million barrels, compared with 900,000 barrels in the plan year that has expired.

SPIEGEL: You mean to say that you propose to sell greater quantities while prices continue to go down?

Nurbakhsh: First we have to attain the sales targets we have set. However, we do not want to deceive ourselves and hang on to prices we cannot enforce.

SPIEGEL: Are you in a position technically to increase production quantities?

Nurbakhsh: We can increase production whenever we like. The installations have hardly been damaged in war.

SPIEGEL: Aren't you also having a hard time selling your oil because former buyer countries still resent the fact that the Tehran government took U.S. diplomats hostage?

Nurbakhsh: We are still the ones who determine who gets our oil. Times of scarcity will come again, and then the consumer will be happy to get their supplies from us.

SPIEGEL: At any rate, your trade partners are currently mostly East bloc countries.

Nurbakhsh: Yes, we are making deliveries to Romania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Hungary and the USSR. We are also making purchases in the East, but we are very careful not to become dependent on the East bloc just as we no longer wish to be dependent on the United States or on other countries.

SPIEGEL: Will trade relations with the East bloc be further enhanced at the expense of other contacts?

Nurbakhsh: Iran is interested in the enhancement, or the establishment, of equal economic relations with Western countries -- with the exception of the United States, South Africa, Chile and Israel. We have already submitted to selected trade partners new proposals concerning cooperation. National oil companies are granted long-term delivery contracts at favorable terms. Deliveries are then offset against our purchases in that particular country.

SPIEGEL: Are you also conducting negotiations along these lines with German oil companies?

Nurbakhsh: Our Oil Ministry has already talked with German and Italian companies.

SPIEGEL: Is there any intention to strengthen relations with the Federal Republic again?

Nurbakhsh: Brisk trade between the Federal Republic and Iran has been resumed for some time. Your Lufthansa airline makes regular stops in Tehran. Iran is now ordering nearly as much as it did prior to the revolution -- mainly machinery, no luxury items or diapers [as published].

SPIEGEL: Your state simply canceled industrial projects which the shah had ordered -- for example, the nuclear powerplant in Bushehr which was half-finished by the Siemens subsidiary Kraftwerk Union (KWU). Are you paying damages now?

Nurbakhsh: No. In the meantine, we have negotiated a settlement with the KWU. The legal controversy has thus been settled. Within the framework of this settlement, the KWU withdrew its suit involving damages in the amount of Dm1.8 billion.

SPIEGEL: Will you fulfill the rest of the contract items? Will construction at Bushehr continue?

Nurbakhsh: The old contract with the KWU has become null and void. The final decision on the utilization of nuclear energy has not yet been made. Consequently, it is not yet definite what will finally happen with Bushehr.

SPIEGEL: Other German companies are also waiting for restitution. For example, your state expropriated the subsidiary companies of the chemical corporations Bayer, BASF, Hoechst and Schering. Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank also lost their possessions in Iran.

Nurbakhsh: I will not comment on individual companies. In general, all foreign companies in Iran can count on indemnification, to the extent as their capital assets were greater than the debts accumulated here. For Bayer, however, there will definitely not be anything left over because a year ago this corporation had debts with Iranian banks which were six times its capital. Year after year the factories near Tehran made deficits because the parent company in Leverkusen delivered the raw materials at excessively high prices. This was a camouflaged transfer of profits to evade taxes in Iran.

SPIEGEL: Your country holds 25 percent of the shares of the powerplant construction corporation Deutsche Babcock and of Krupp Limited and the Krupp steel corporation. Is Iran still interested in this holding?

Nurbakhsh: If the shah had invested the money in the Iranian infrastructure at the time, this would have been much more beneficial to our country. However, since we have gotten involved in these companies, we will stay in them.

SPIEGEL: You do not intend to sell?

Nurbakhsh: On the contrary, we still have quite a few plans together with these companies. Even if no grandiose dividends are produced, we at least expect our technicians and skilled personnel to be trained by Babcock and Krupp in the future.

SPIEGEL: What share of orders will go to the German companies in which you hold a partnership?

Nurbakhsh: Why should we favor these companies? Only those companies which submit the most favorable bids will get the orders. In this connection, I will not make any secret of the fact that we particularly like to cooperate with German companies.

The Mannesmann pipe factory, for example, might expect a large-scale order in connection with one of our projects. We are planning the construction of an oil and gas pipeline from Iran straight across Turkey to the Mediterranean.

NVOI: U.S. PREPARING PLOT FROM TURKEY, PAKISTAN

TA061527 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 5 April carried a commentary, entitled "The Danger of America's Plots Against the Islamic Republic of Iran Is a Serious Danger." It said that, in recent days, precisely amid conditions in which the United States and its elements in the region are preparing themselves for another plot against the Islamic Republic and our nation's revolution, certain hands, whether wittingly or unwittingly, both among government figures and the mass media, are diverting public opinion from the real danger of U.S. plots. More worrisome than this is that in recent weeks the attacks and the scope of slanders and accusations against organizations and parties faithful to the revolution and to the popular and anti-imperialist line of our nation's revolution have derived a wider dimension. Fortunately, some of the realistic officials of our Islamic Republic are completely aware of the danger of U.S. plots, and are justly saying that America must leave our region and that the preservation of the Persian Gulf's security is the responsibility of the countries of the region itself, not the United States.

We maintain that the danger of U.S. imperialism and the plots of its dregs is a serious danger. In order to carry out a bloody plot against revolutionary Iran, the United States is making use of all its elements, from the counterrevolution within and abroad to dependent regimes such as those in Turkey, Israel, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Oman and others. The Israeli Zionists do not conceal their aggressive plans against Iran, which are the same conspiratorial U.S. schemes.

On the other hand, America is engaged in preparing military operations and plots against revolutionary Iran from Turkey and Pakistan. It is a fact that some of the counterrevolutionary groups are stationed on Turkey's borders with Iran, without doubt with the agreement of Turkey and the United States.

Now, if some persons want to close their eyes and ears to this reality it is their own business. But we must come to the certain conclusion that America is preparing the implementation of a plot on various levels, including through Turkey and Pakistan. Under conditions in which the United States has mobilized all its potential to overthrow the Islamic Republic's system, lack of necessary attention toward this fact and the unleashing of a propaganda campaign against the true forces of the revolution cannot be attributed to anything but attempts to save America from blows. The danger of America's plots in the region is a serious danger, and one must confront this danger seriously and realistically.